



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.

Setting the standard for credentials evaluation



AACRAO presents the AICE Credential Forum's: When a degree is not a degree - exploring credentials outside countries' educational ladders

Shelby Cearley, Covista

Aleks Morawski, Scholaro

Mandy Morrison, Scholaro

Kefyn Watkins,
University of Northern British Columbia

Julia Funaki, AACRAO

Dave Mihalyi, AACRAO

AACRAO + AICE

AACRAO = American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers

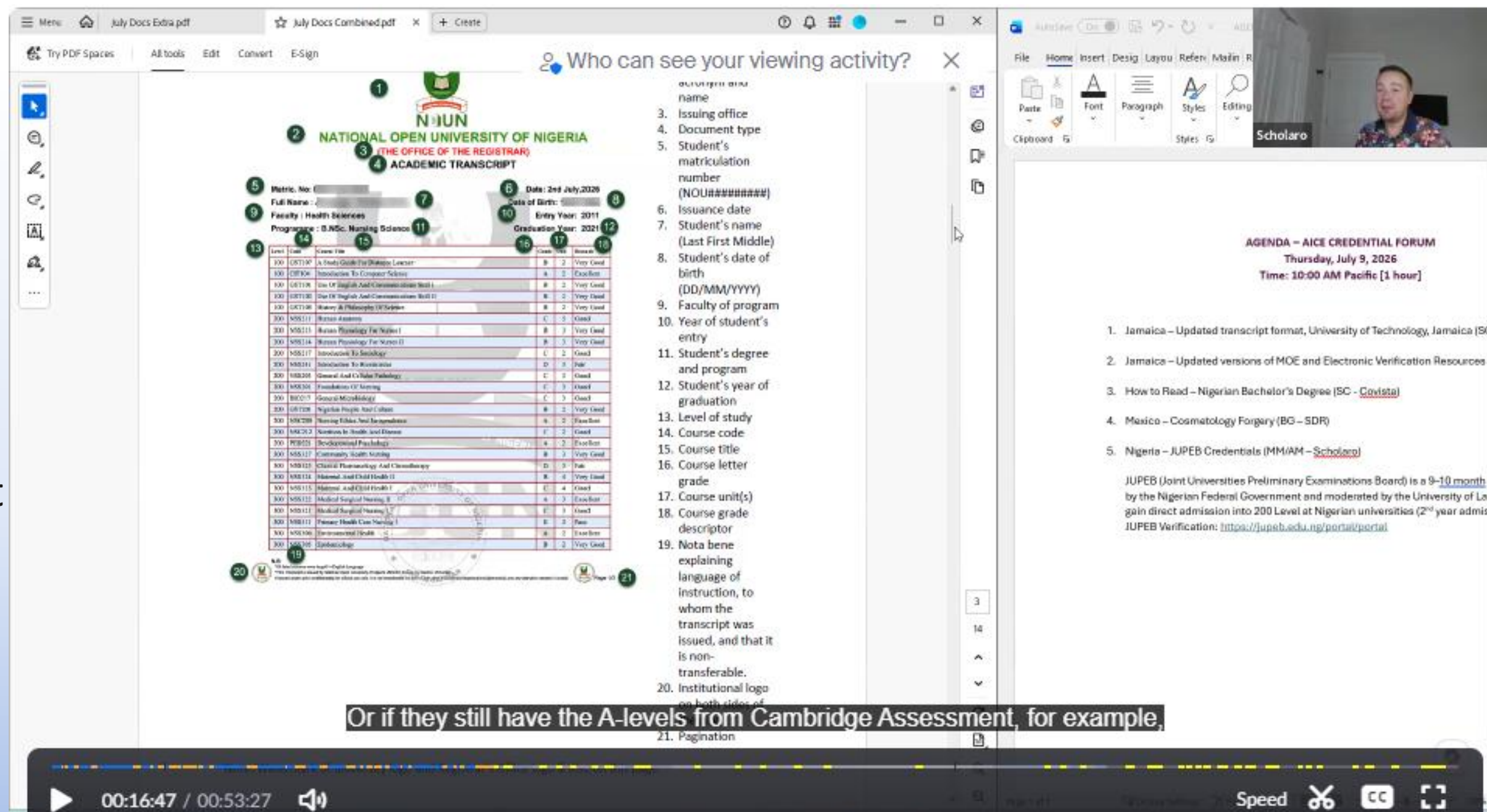
AICE = Association of International Credential Evaluators

◻ Memorandum of Understanding signed March 2019:

- Mutual recognition of [AICE](#) and [AACRAO's International Education Standards Council \(IESC\)](#) standards
- Consistent interpretation of educational credentials
- Advocacy for international education
- Promotion of international educational professional development
- Collaboration on conference presentations and research

AICE Credential Forum

- ❖ Tricky credentials
- ❖ Accreditation issues
- ❖ Fraud detection
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Hot topics
- ❖ To join as a guest, contact
morawski@scholaro.com
aice-eval.org



Who can see your viewing activity?

AGENDA – AICE CREDENTIAL FORUM
Thursday, July 9, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM Pacific [1 hour]

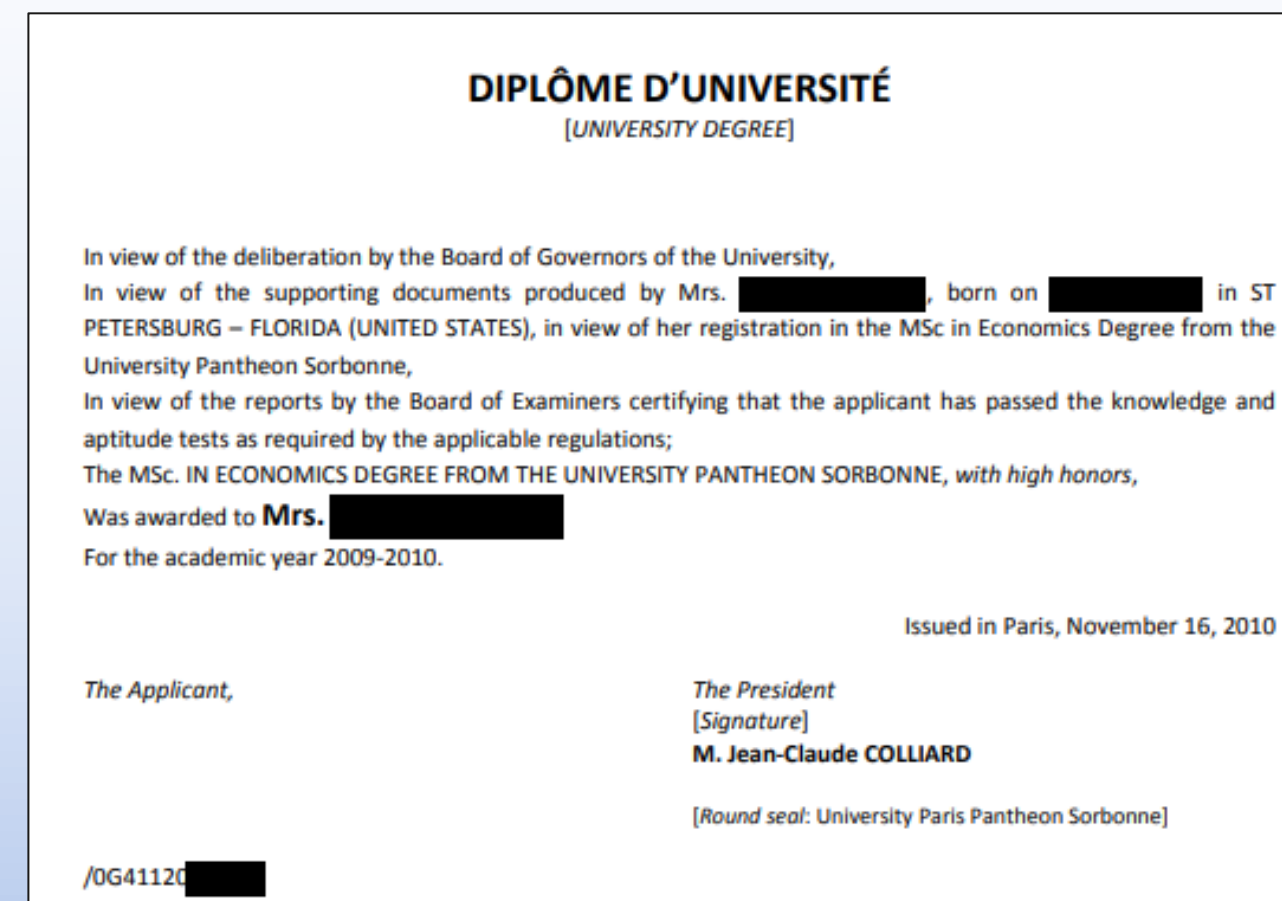
1. Jamaica – Updated transcript format, University of Technology, Jamaica (S)
2. Jamaica – Updated versions of MOE and Electronic Verification Resources
3. How to Read – Nigerian Bachelor's Degree (SC - [Covista](#))
4. Mexico – Cosmetology Forgery (BG – SDR)
5. Nigeria – JUPEB Credentials (MM/AM – [Scholaro](#))

JUPEB (Joint Universities Preliminary Examinations Board) is a 9-10 month by the Nigerian Federal Government and moderated by the University of Lagos direct admission into 200 Level at Nigerian universities (2nd year admission). JUPEB Verification: <https://jupeb.edu.ng/portal/portal>

Or if they still have the A-levels from Cambridge Assessment, for example,

When a degree is not a degree

France - Diplôme D'Université – Université Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2009-2010



- 1-year University Diploma (DU) program designed for international students (graduate level)
- Eligible to apply for National Diploma M2 Economics program **at U Paris I - Panthéon-Sorbonne only**
- French Diplômes d'Établissements/Titres d'Établissement/Diplômes Universitaire are unrecognized programs within France that fall outside the official recognition structure of the French MESRI
- Program information at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120228063343/http://www.univ-paris1.fr/diplomes/pantheon-sorbonne-master-in-economics-first-year-psme/presentation/>

N° Etudiant : 109 [redacted] INE : 0G411 [redacted]
Née le : [redacted] à : ST PETERSBURG - FLORIDE (ETATS UNIS)
Inscrite en **DU Panthéon Sorbonne MSc. in Economics**
a obtenu les notes suivantes :

	Note/Barème	Pts jury	Résultat	Session	Crédits
année	14.844 / 20		Admis	S1 2009/10	60
semestre 1	14.454 / 20		Admis	S1 2009/10	30
econometrics	14 / 20			S1 2009/10	7
economics growth	16 / 20			S1 2009/10	7
macroeconomics	15 / 20			S1 2009/10	7
microeconomics	13 / 20			S1 2009/10	7
french 1	13.81 / 20			S1 2009/10	2
semestre 2	15.233 / 20		Admis	S1 2009/10	30
development and transition economics	16 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
economics of organization	13.5 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
health economics	15.5 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
principles of finance	14.5 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
Economics & epistemology	17 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
Politique du développement	12.5 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
french s2	14.5 / 20			S1 2009/10	2
dissertation	18 / 20			S1 2009/10	4
Résultat d'admission :	14.844 / 20		Admis	Bien	

Fait à Paris, le 2 juillet 2010
Le Directeur Général des Services

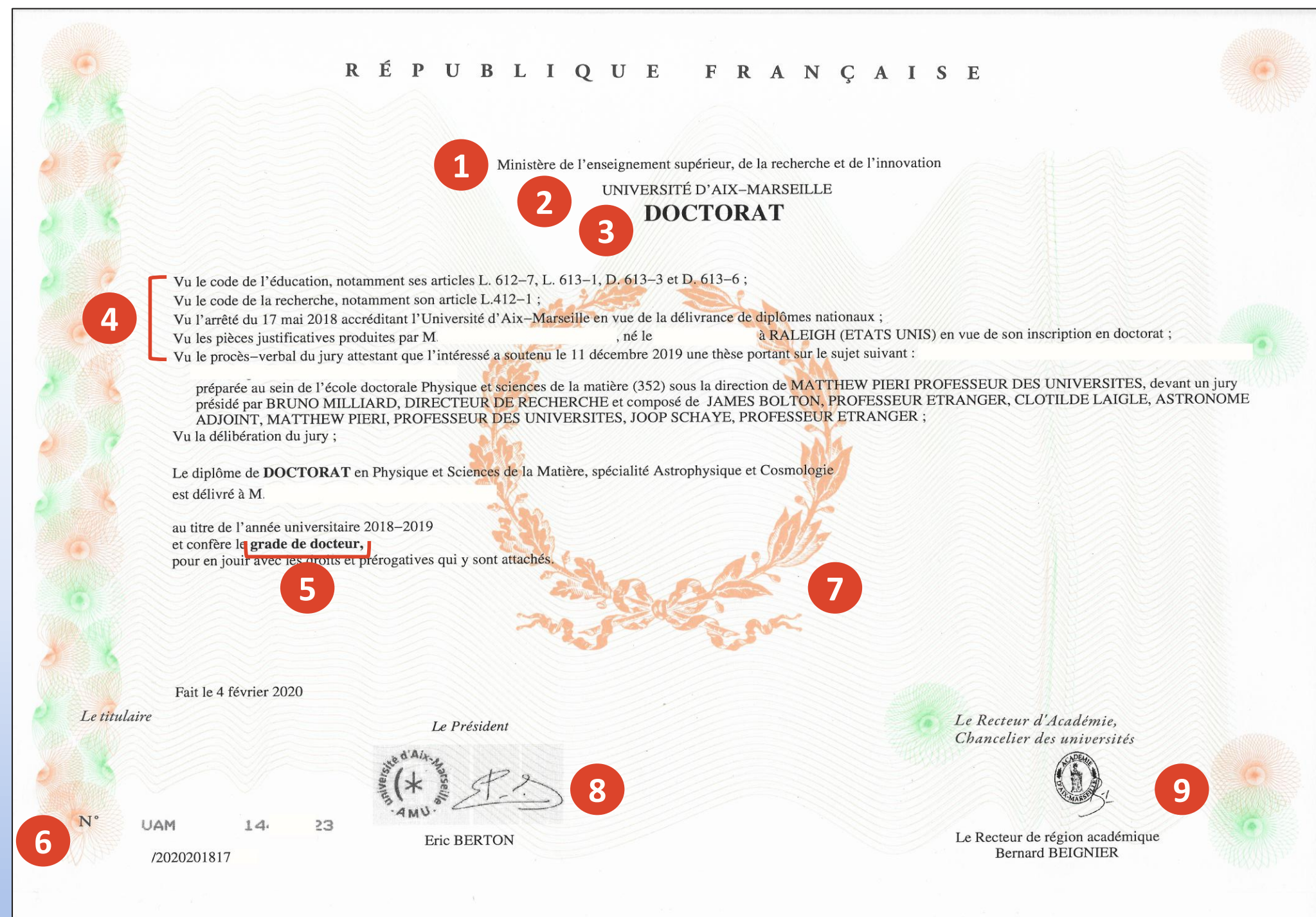
M. François RIOU



Avis important : Il ne peut être délivré qu'un seul exemplaire du présent relevé de note. Aucun duplicata ne sera fourni.

France – National Diploma Features

- 1: Name of the Ministry **at the time of award**
- 2: Official name of the awarding institution
- 3: Award Name
- 4: Legal Basis
- 5: Degree Grade
- 6: Diploma Number



- 7: Security features of the national press (guilloche, *palmes académiques*)
- 8: Awarding Institution President Signature
- 9: Signature (and Stamp) of the Rector of the regional *Académie*

France - University Diploma Features

- 1: Official name of the awarding institution
- 2: University Diploma
- 3: Institution approval only, no legal basis
- 4: Diploma Number



- 5: MSC. **not** Master
- 6: Security features (guilloche, palmes académiques)
- 7: Awarding Institution President Signature

France - National vs University Diploma



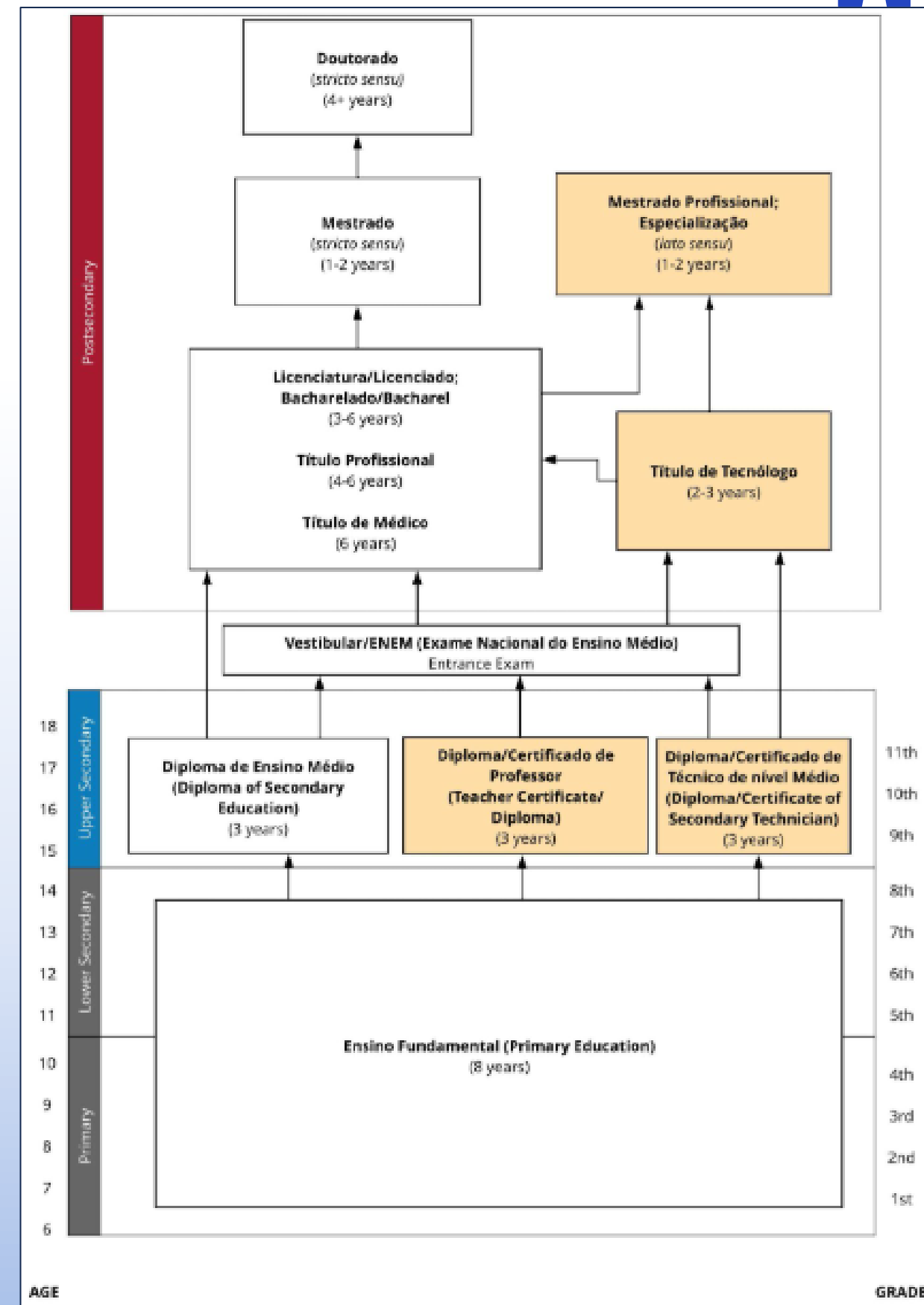
Brazil – Tecnólogo + Pós-graduação, 2008 2012



3 years

368 hours (1.5 years)

- According to EDGE,
the *Especialização* programs are the
U.S. equivalent of up to one year of
graduate study
- Entrance requirement = *Tecnólogo*
(2-3 years), *Licenciatura/Bacharel* (3-
6 years), or *Título Profissional* (4-6
years)
- What are *Lato Sensu* (Wide sense)
programs?
- Is *Especialização* still graduate-level
credit? Can it be combined for a 4-
year undergraduate degree?



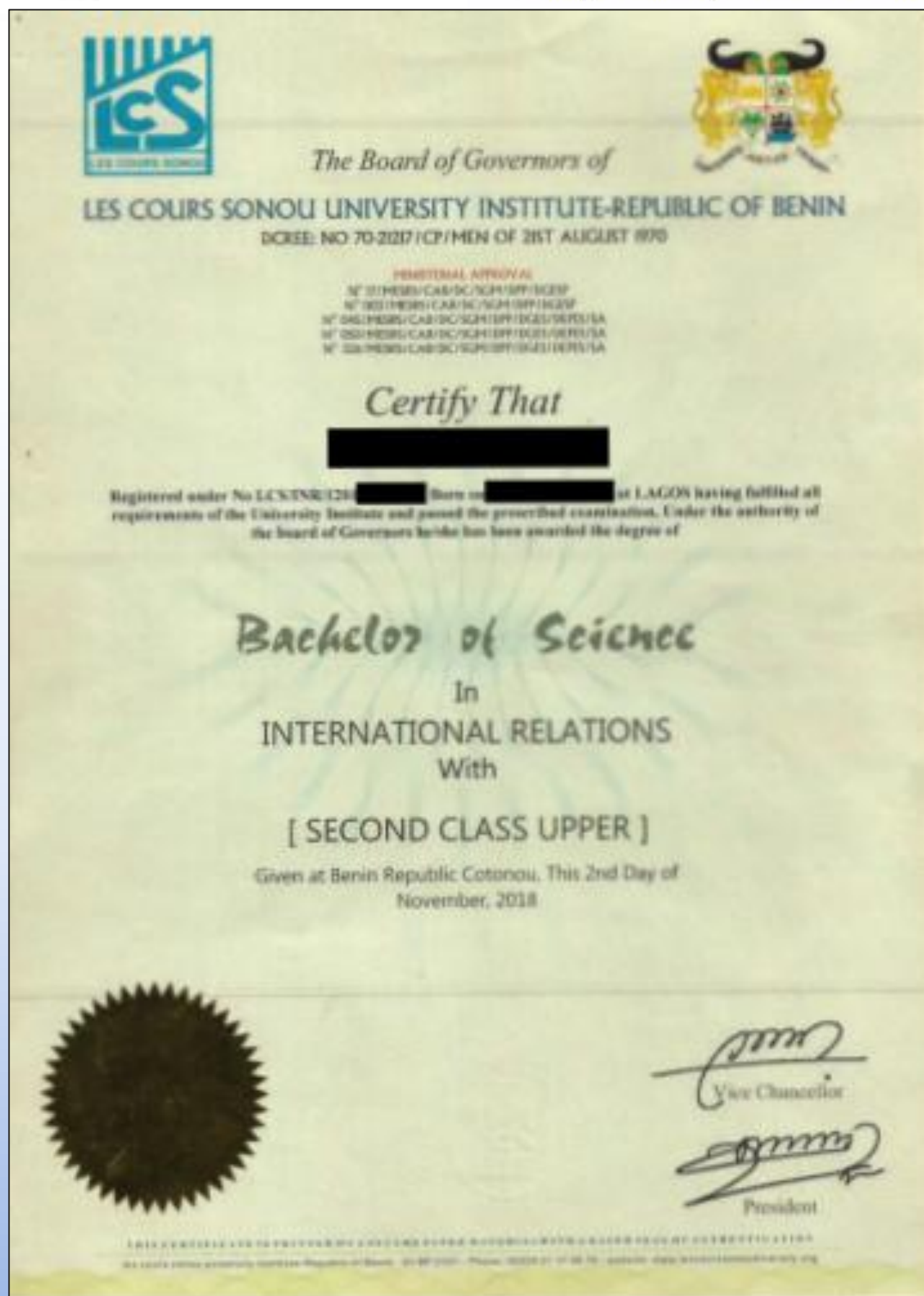


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Benin – Bachelor of Science 2018



Les Cours Sonou University Institute Cotonou - Benin					
08 BP 2002 Cotonou / Tel : +229 21 08 75 62 / +229 98 06 81 91					
SITES : CACORNA - JORNGO - HANGO MOUTABE - PORTO NOVO E-mail: csonouni@ycsbenin.org					
Site web: www.csonouniuniversity.org					
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE					
Student Name: [REDACTED]					
Matriculation Number: LCS/199/009/120 [REDACTED]					
Entry Qualification: WAEC					
Program: Bachelor's Degree in International Relations					
Year of Entry: 2015					
Date of Graduation: 2018					
Session: 2016 / 2018					
Year I - First Semester					
Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
POS 111	INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE	3	B	4	12
POS 112	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3	B	4	12
POS 113	CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	3	C	3	9
FRN 001	BASIC FRENCH	3	C	3	9
POS 115	ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT	3	B	4	12
INT 301	THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY	3	B	4	12
GNS 101	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY	3	B	4	12
GNS 102	LOGIC OF EMILYAN	3	A	5	15
GPA		20			77.5
Year I - Second Semester					
Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
FRN 302	BASIC FRENCH	3	C	3	9
CIC 112	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER AND SOCIETY	3	A	5	15
ECO 115	INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC	3	B	4	12
POS 111	INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE	3	B	4	12
INT 111	FOREIGN POLICY	3	C	4	12
ECO 121	ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN AFRICA	3	B	4	12
INT 122	THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3	B	4	12
HS 201	AMERICAN HISTORY	3	C	3	9
GPA		22			86.35
Year I - Summer					
Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
INT 201	EUROPEAN HISTORY	2	B	4	8
GNS 121	BASIC STUDY SKILL	2	B	4	8
GNS 122	MANITACH AND ENVIRONMENT	2	A	5	10
GPA		6			26
SESSION: 2016/2017 Year II - First Semester					
Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
INT 111	THEORIES AND TYPOLOGIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION	3	A	5	15
INT 112	POLITICAL THEORIES AND IDEAS	3	B	4	12
INT 113	DIPLOMACY HISTORY	3	A	5	15
INT 114	INTERNATIONAL AIDS AND DEVELOPMENT	3	B	4	12
INT 115	INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHT AND HUMANITARIAN LAW	3	B	4	12
INT 116	COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEM	3	B	4	12
FRN 001	FRENCH COMMUNICATION I	3	C	3	9
GPA		20			82.25/100
Year II - Second Semester					
Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
INT 302	INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	3	A	5	15
INT 311	CONSTITUTIONALISM AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT	3	C	3	9
INT 312	DIPLOMACY THEORIES AND PRACTICES	3	C	3	9
INT 314	JOURNALISATION AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS	3	B	4	12
INT 317	THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3	B	4	12
INT 318	THEORIES AND PRACTICES OF ADMINISTRATION	3	C	3	9
ECO 122	ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN EUROPE	3	C	3	9

Page 2					
12	FRENCH 302	3	C	3	9
GPA		28			86.25

Year II - Summer

Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
INT 302	PSYCHOLOGY	3	A	5	15
INT 303	INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP	3	B	4	12
INT 304	IT PROGRAM	3	D	4	12
GPA		11			29

Year III - First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
INT 301	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	3	A	5	15
INT 302	ADVANCED FRENCH	3	C	3	9
INT 303	FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS	3	B	4	12
INT 304	INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	3	B	4	12
INT 305	DYNAMICS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION	3	B	4	12
INT 306	INTERNATIONAL LAW	3	C	3	9
INT 307	ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN AFRICA	3	C	3	9
INT 308	POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS	3	B	4	12
INT 309	AFRICA IN WORLD AFFAIRS	3	B	4	12
GPA		26			94.44/100

Year III - Second Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Unit	Letter Grade	Unit Obtained	Average
INT 310	PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	3	C	3	9
INT 311	AFRICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY	3	C	3	9
INT 312	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	3	C	3	9
INT 313	COMMUNICATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3	C	3	9
INT 314	ASIAN THOUGHTS	3	C	3	9
INT 315	STRATEGIC STUDIES	3	C	3	9
INT 316	INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION	3	B	4	12
INT 317	AFRICAN POLITICAL THOUGHTS	3	B	4	12
INT 318	PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS	3	C	3	9
INT 319	SOCIOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3	B	4	12
INT 320	PROJECT WRITING AND DEFENCE	3	B	4	12
GPA		35			114.54/100

General GPA / 3.00

3.715105197

Second Class Honours (Upper Division)

Degree Awarded: Bachelor's Degree in International Relations

Grading System

Score	Letter Grades	Quality Points
80 - 100	A	5
70 - 79	B	4
60 - 59	C	3
50 - 49	D	2
40 - 39	E	1
30 - 29	F	0
20 - 19	F	0
10 - 9	F	0
0 - 0	F	0

Grading System

Score	Letter Grades	Quality Points
80 - 100	A	5
70 - 79	B	4
60 - 59	C	3
50 - 49	D	2
40 - 39	E	1
30 - 29	F	0
20 - 19	F	0
10 - 9	F	0
0 - 0	F	0

THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS TRANSCRIPT SHOULD BE CHECKED WITH THIS OFFICE.

ANY ALTERATION SHALL BE PENALIZED BY IT INVAID

Bachelor of Science in International Relations – Les Cours Sonou University Institute – 2018

- ◻ Per transcripts, admission based on WAEC (WASSCE) to a 3-year Bachelor's degree
- ◻ Anglophone degree cycle offered by a dual-language institution in Benin
- ◻ Les Cours Sonou does have MESRS approval to operate and several approved Licence Pro and Master's degree programs
- ◻ Benin diploma requirements for it to be considered fully recognized since 2008:
 - Registration n° at ministry
 - Minister's signature
 - Signature of the person in charge of academics at the institution
 - Institution Director's signature
 - Signature of the holder

- Anglophone degrees hold no official recognition in Benin without having a signed diploma and registration number from MESRS

 - Benin MESRS communique from 2021 stating that English language programs at PHEIs have never been recognized
- From 2017 graduates of unaccredited PHEI programs may take a National Exam in French to earn full degree equivalence

01 BP 348 Cotonou
Tél.: +229 21 30 06 81
Fax : +229 21 30 57 95
www.enseignementsuperieur.gouv.bj



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR
ET DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN

N° 577^b /MESRS/DGES/DEPES/SA Cotonou, 16 août 2021

COMMUNIQUE

La Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESRS) communique :

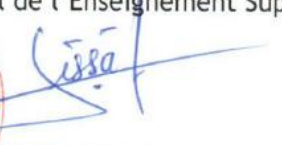
Il est porté à la connaissance du public que les sections anglophones dans les Etablissements Privés d'Enseignement Supérieur (EPES) n'ont jamais été autorisées au Bénin et toute personne non francophone désireuse de poursuivre ses études supérieures au Bénin est tenue de justifier un niveau de B2 au moins en français ou de s'inscrire à la formation en vue de l'obtention du Certificat de Langue Française pour l'Accès à l'Enseignement Supérieur (CLFAES).

En conséquence, tout établissement coupable ferait l'objet de sanction conformément aux textes en vigueur.

Il est rappelé que les examens nationaux en vue de l'obtention de la Licence et du Master se déroulent en français.

La Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique invite tout un chacun à la vigilance.

Pour la MESRS et par délégation,
Le Directeur Général de l'Enseignement Supérieur,



Issaka YOUSSAO ABDOU KARIM



Ampliation
MESRS : ATCR



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- Sample National Exam passing certificate Courtesy of Roxane Hindié of France Education via TAICEP Gaggle

MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR
ET DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE
RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN

01 BP 348 Cotonou
Tél : +229 21 30 53 93
Fax : +229 21 30 57 95
www.mesrs.bj

ATTESTATION DE SUCCES
N° L-ENAMO/2704/2017/MESRS/DGES/DEPES/SA

Le Directeur Général de l'Enseignement Supérieur, soussigné, atteste que

Mme/Mlle/M [REDACTED]
Né (e) le [REDACTED]
A [REDACTED] Pays BENIN
Nationalité Béninoise
Numéro d'Inscription [REDACTED]

a subi avec succès les épreuves de l'examen national de

Licence Professionnelle (BAC+3)
Domaine : Sciences Agronomiques Mention :
Option : Spécialité : Production Végétale
Session de Août 2017
Centre de Cotonou

En foi de quoi cette attestation, valable pour un an, lui est délivrée pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.

Cotonou, le 17 AVR 2019

Toutes ratures ou surcharges sur cette attestation en annulent la validité

Le Directeur Général
Kokou ASSOGBA
Directeur Général de l'Enseignement Supérieur

Myanmar – National Unity Government (NUG)

A degree is a degree, but what about the status of the recognition body of the awarding institution?

- ✧ Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG) established April 16, 2021 after a coup.
- ✧ Expanded beyond elective civilian government to include Myanmar's ethnic minorities.
- ✧ Formed an armed resistance, evolving from a government-in-exile into a central political and military resistance movement
- ✧ By 2023-24, established local civil and public service structures, including a Ministry of Education

Myanmar's Education Crisis

- ✧ Since 2021, Myanmar's formal education system has faced severe disruption
- ✧ According to UNICEF data, over 7 million children have been affected by school closures, displacement, and insecurity
- ✧ Loss of access to secondary education completion pathways
- ✧ Risk of a "lost generation" without **recognized certification**
- ✧ Urgent need for safe, credible, accessible learning and assessment pathways

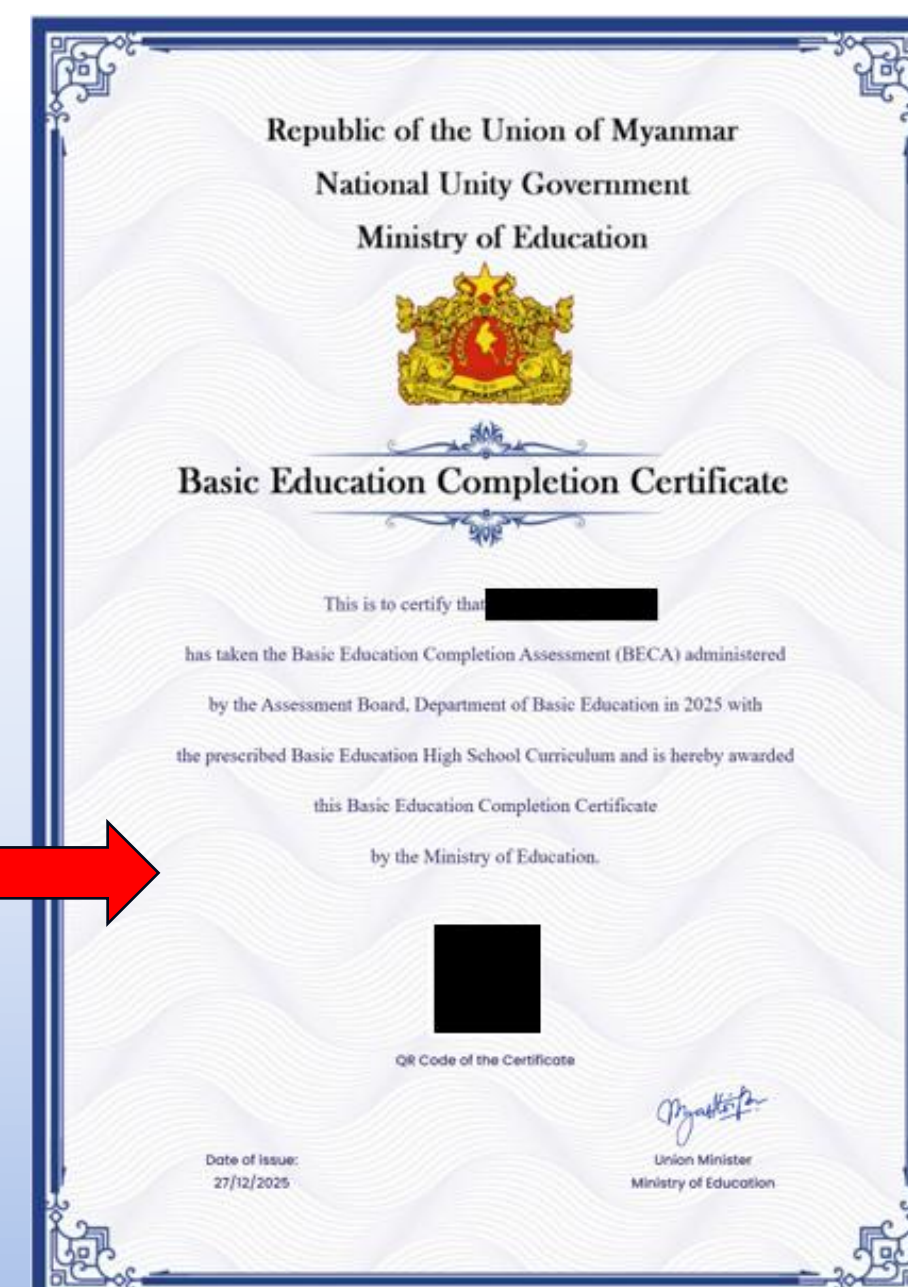
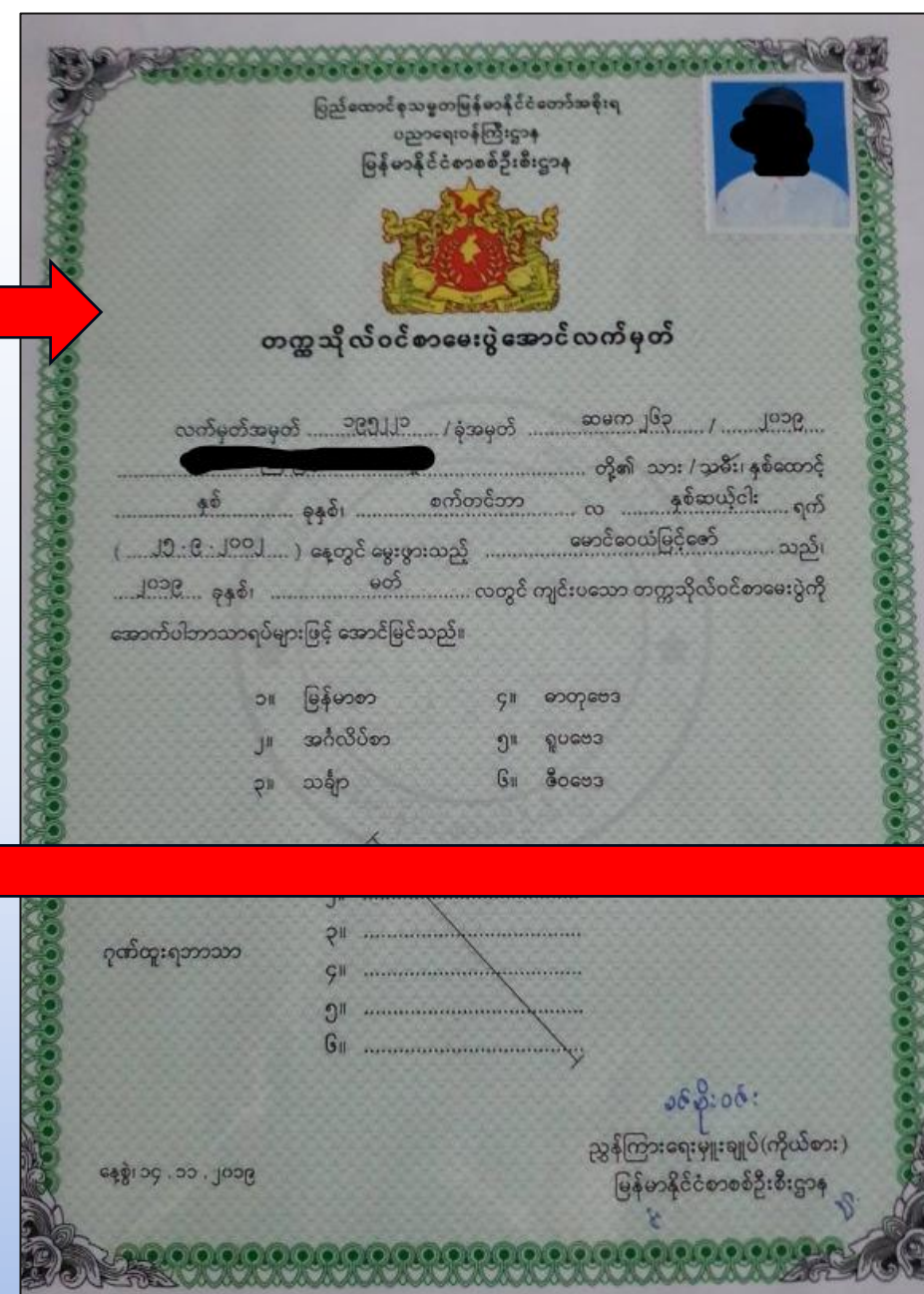
Parallel Secondary Education Credentials

Government of the Union of Myanmar:

○ *Matriculation Certificate*

National Unity Government of Myanmar:

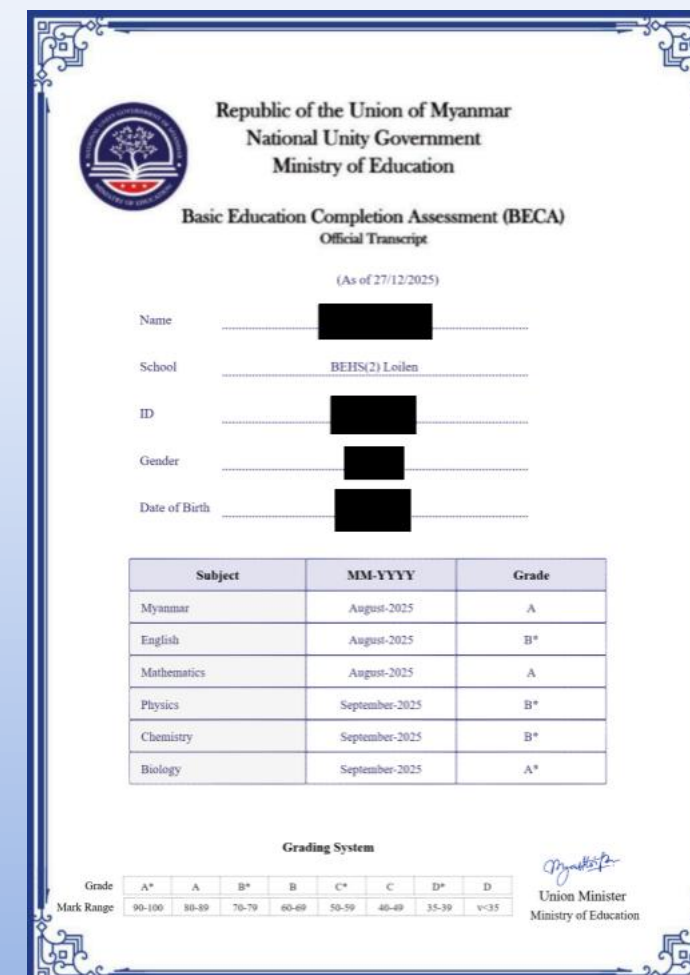
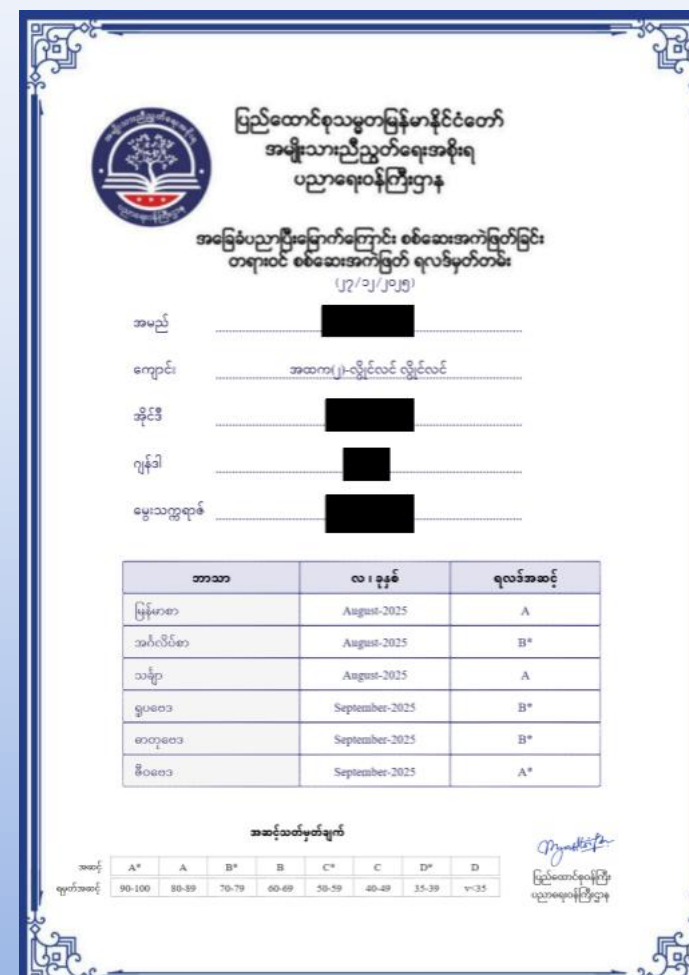
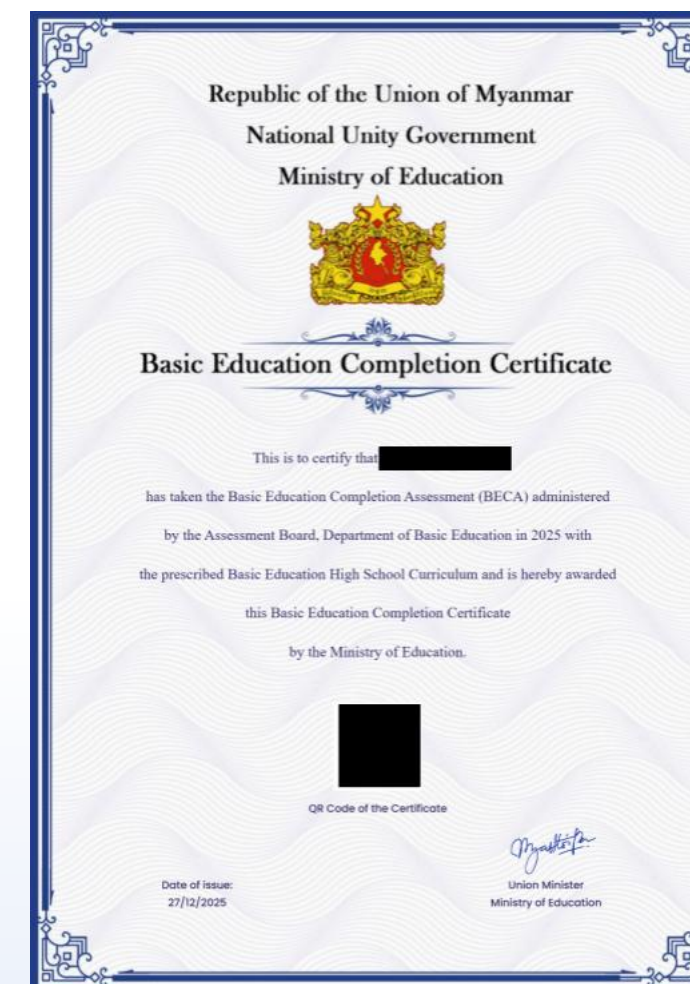
○ *Basic Education Completion Certificate
(BECA)*



What is BECA?

- A national competency-based assessment ensuring students can complete basic education despite conflict.
- Accessible online and offline
- Competency-based rather than rote memorization
- Recognized by NUG's MoE

BECA docs source: G. Guglielmi, CIMEA (TAICEP gaggle)



How Offline Participation Works

- **Paper-Based Exams:** Students receive physical, printed test papers. They complete the exams under the supervision of interim educators or local revolutionary administration boards.
- **Moodle Boxes:** In remote or conflict-affected areas, education efforts often use portable offline servers (like Moodle Boxes) that act as local Wi-Fi hotspots, allowing students to access curriculum and testing materials without requiring an active internet connection.
- **Security:** Exam logistics and answer sheets are handled securely and covertly to bypass military junta blockades and protect the safety of students and educators.
- **Grading & Certification:** Once completed, the offline papers or recorded grades are securely routed to the NUG Ministry of Education. After a rigorous verification process, students receive their official BECA certificates.
- **Certificate Collection:** Offline examinees collect their physical or digital completion certificates through their regional Township Education Boards.

NUG's Reported International Alignment of BECA

- ◻ **SDG4 (Quality Education)**
- ◻ **Competency Standards**
- ◻ **INEE Minimum Standards**
- ◻ **Pathways to higher education (universities/TVET recognition)**

NUG's Reported Quality Assurance for BECA

Quality Assurance

- Standardized test procedures
- Prepare the Table of Specifications and develop items with Bloom's Taxonomy.
- Collect student responses
- Import the data into RStudio.
- Do item analysis: item difficulty and item discrimination, reliability analysis.
- Revise or remove poor-quality items.
- Develop item bank and parallel forms for each subject.

- Learners with reliable internet connectivity sit for the BECA through the LMS platform, where they are monitored using a secure online proctoring system.
- Learners without internet access sit for the BECA through the Offline LMS at authorized test centers, where trained personnel provide on-site human proctoring.

NUG Credential Verification Resources

- Online information should be found in this domain to be considered legitimate:
<https://moe.nugmyanmar.org/>
- Current Minister of Education: Ja Htoi Pan
- Certificate Verification System: <https://moe.nugmyanmar.org/en/message-to-people/certificate-verify-system/>
- List of NUG-supported post-secondary institutions and their contacts:
<https://moe.nugmyanmar.org/he/uic-list-24/>
- Contact email address for MoE: ir@moe.nugmyanmar.org

Informal Analysis of BECA Content

- ❖ Past BECA examination papers can be found here:
<https://moe.nugmyanmar.org/en/category/be/sample-questions/>
- ❖ Learning outcomes derived from Mathematics and physical sciences past papers' content indicates possible competency level between British Columbia's Grades 11 and 12
(<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>)
- ❖ Informal faculty reviews recommend considering applications presenting BECA completion in the A range

Suggestions for Admissions Officers

- ❖ Decide whether credentials supported by interim authorities in conflict zones should be accepted
- ❖ Consider diverse qualification portfolios for those also presenting GED or similar
- ❖ Research the alignment of the certificate's subject content, reported performances and applicant's résumé with the post-secondary program's prerequisites
- ❖ Reach out to NUG's MoE for verification
- ❖ Consider conducting a joint admissions office/faculty interview with the applicant

Further Reading:

Myanmar's Education Reforms

Lall, Marie:

<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/51835>

NUG Has Established Nearly 6,000 Schools

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/nug-has-established-nearly-6000-schools>

Considerations for Credential Evaluators

- ◻ Can BECA, and credentials from the NUG's Ministry of Education be considered to have academic recognition?
- ◻ Can higher education credentials from Kachin State Comprehensive University (<https://kscu.academy/>) be considered recognized?
 - Formed in 2022 by the NUG
 - Not recognized by neighboring countries like Thailand
 - Has collaborated with recognized foreign universities
 - Is status similar to Baha'i Institute for Higher Education, not recognized by Iranian government for religious reasons, but established international higher education community?

Please join us for the monthly EDGE User Group

2026 Dates:

August 20

November 19

September 17

December 17

October 15

<https://www.aacrao.org/webinar/edge-user-group-august-2026/>



Thank you!

- ◻ To be a guest at an upcoming AICE Credential Forum (September 11, 11am CST) please contact Morawski@scholaro.com
- ◻ To learn more about AICE, visit www.aice-eval.org